

# **COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**Wednesday 21 January 2015**  
**Senate Chamber, Parliament Buildings**

**Present:** Ms Maeve McLaughlin MLA (Chairperson)  
Ms Paula Bradley MLA (Deputy Chairperson)  
Mr Mickey Brady MLA  
Mrs Pam Cameron MLA  
Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson MLA  
Mr Paul Givan MLA  
Mr Kieran McCarthy MLA  
Ms Rosie McCorley MLA  
Mr Michael McGimpsey MLA  
Mr Fearghal McKinney MLA  
Mr George Robinson MLA

**Apologies:** None

**In Attendance:** Dr Kathryn Aiken (Clerk)  
Mr Oliver Bellew (Assistant Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Innis Mennie (Clerical Supervisor)  
Mr Craig Mealey (Clerical Officer)

*The meeting commenced at 2.07 p.m. in public session.*

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

### **2. Chairperson's Business**

- i. The Chairperson advised the Committee that a number of organisations had contacted her with concerns relating to the role of GPs in respect of the Regional Taskforce on unscheduled care.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request further information on the involvement of GPs in the preparations for winter pressures; the membership of the local implementation

groups; and the membership of the six work streams established by the Task Group.

- ii. The Chairperson summarised the keys points of interest for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety arising from the Finance Minister's statement on the final budget for 2015/16 and the outcome of the January monitoring round.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking further details on its allocation of £4 million under the Change Fund.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking an update on the 2014/15 budget position and clarification on whether it was on track to live within its budget up to 31 March 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department of Finance and Personnel for further details of how it plans to assess the performance of DHSSPS within the monitoring round scrutiny for 2015-2016.

*2.12 pm Mr Fearghal McKinney joined the meeting.*

*2.13pm Mr George Robinson joined the meeting.*

- iii. The Chairperson advised members that the analysis of responses to the public consultation on the Mental Capacity Bill had not yet been published.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek an update on the timetable for introducing the Bill to the Assembly.

- iv. The Chairperson advised members that she had met with representatives from Adoption UK in relation to the delay in bringing forward adoption legislation.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted that, as no response had been received from the Department in relation to correspondence regarding the delay in bringing forward adoption legislation, it would write again to request the information.

- v. Members noted a draft agenda for the upcoming meeting with the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed further items to be added to the agenda. The Committee also agreed to write to the Department seeking an update on each agenda item in advance of the meeting.

### **3. Draft Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 14 January 2015**

The minutes of the Committee meeting on Wednesday 14 January 2015 were *agreed*.

**4. Food Hygiene Rating Bill: Briefing by Pubs of Ulster**

The Committee took evidence from:

Mr Colin Neill                                      Chief Executive, Pubs of Ulster

A question and answer session ensued.

*2.40pm Mr Michael McGimpsey left the meeting.*

The Chairperson thanked the witness for attending.

**5. Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Bill: Regulation of Healthcare Professionals – Report on the Legislative Consent Motion**

Members noted a draft report on the Legislative Consent Motion on the Regulation of Healthcare Professionals.

*2.51pm Mrs Jo-Anne Dobson left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the cover and contents pages and agreed that they stand as part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted paragraphs 1 to 3 and agreed that they stand as part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted paragraphs 4 to 12 and agreed that they stand as part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted paragraphs 13 to 16 and agreed that they stand as part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted paragraph 17 and agreed that it stand as part of the Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee noted the Appendices and agreed that they stand as part of the Report.

*Agreed:* Members agreed that the Committee Report on the Legislative Consent Motion to allow inclusion of the provisions in relation to the Regulation of Health Care Professionals in the Health and Social Care (Safety and Quality) Bill be laid in the Business Office to comply with required timescales as set out in Standing Order 42 A(7).

**6. SR 2014-293: The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee considered SR 2014-293: The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Chairperson put the question:

*“The Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety has considered the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (Membership, Procedure, Functions and Committee) (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and has no objection to the Rule.”*

*The Committee divided: Ayes 3; Noes 5; Abstain 0*

**AYES**

Ms Paula Bradley

Mr George Robinson

Mrs Pam Cameron

**NOES**

Ms Maeve McLaughlin

Mr Mickey Brady

Mr Kieran McCarthy

Mr Fearghal McKinney

Ms Rosaleen McCorley

*Question accordingly negatived.*

**7. SR 2014-318: The Health and Social Care Bodies (Membership) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

*Agreed:* “The Committee considered SR 2014-318: The Health and Social Care Bodies (Membership) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule”.

**8. SR 2014-319: The General Dental Services (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014**

*Agreed:* “The Committee considered SR 2014-319: The General Dental Services (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 and had no objection to the Rule”.

**9. Forward Work Programme**

*Agreed:* The Committee noted, and agreed, the Forward Work Programme.

**10. Matters Arising**

*2.59pm Mr Paul Givan joined the meeting.*

- i. The Committee considered a response from the Minister regarding the steps being taken by the Department in relation to the recommendations made by the Marshall Report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request sight of the Response Team's six monthly reports to the Minister in relation to the implementation of the recommendations; and for details of how the Response Team will engage with organisations providing support to young people affected by child sexual exploitation.

- ii. The Committee *noted* a response from the Minister on the January Monitoring Round.

## **11. Correspondence**

- i. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the provision and management of cleaning services in the Health and Social Care Sector.
- ii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the appointment of an interim Chair to the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland.
- iii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister regarding the Languages Control Order.
- iv. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister to the Chair of the Justice Committee regarding proposals by the Attorney General to amend the Justice Bill.
- v. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Minister to the Committee for Regional Development regarding a proposed committee meeting concerning the Active Schools Travel Programme.
- vi. The Committee *considered* correspondence from Mrs Pam Cameron MLA, Chairperson of the APG on Infertility, regarding Fertility Services.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department to ask whether a move to providing two cycles of treatment has been costed.
- vii. The Committee *noted* correspondence from the Nursing and Midwifery Council regarding the consultation on the proposal to remove time limits for the completion of education programmes.
- viii. The Committee *considered* correspondence from the Alzheimer's Society regarding sponsorship of an event.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to sponsor the event.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Members expressed concerns in relation to the provision of domiciliary care, community meals, within the wider strategic context of Transforming Your Care.

**13. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday 28 January at 2.00pm in the Senate, Parliament Buildings.

*The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.10pm.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Chairperson*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_